

**Beate Andrees, Director of the ILO NY Office**  
**on the “ROLE OF SOCIAL AND SOLIDARITY ECONOMY IN**  
**ACHIEVING THE SDGS:**  
**POTENTIAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION”**

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- Check against delivery -

Thank you, Chair.

Excellencies, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

When the International Labour Conference adopted its first ever resolution and conclusions on the **Social and Solidarity Economy** (SSE) in June this year, millions of workers all over the world felt vindicated – workers in consumer and agricultural cooperatives, indigenous peoples, waste pickers in the informal sector, just to name a few. The workers’ vice chairperson, Toni Moore from Barbados, hailed the new resolution as **a bridge that had been built** between the past -- more than 100 years ago when the ILO first recognized the importance of the SSE -- and the future – a future where people and planet are at the centre of our economic systems.

Allow me to highlight some key elements of this resolution to inform your important deliberations here today:

- The Resolution provides a definition of the SSE based on a set of values and principles. This is the first ever agreed definition at the international level.
- It recognizes the SSE's role and potential in facilitating the transition from the informal to the formal economy and toward environmentally sustainable economies, especially in times of crises.
- It calls on the ILO constituents to foster the SSE's economic, social and environmental contributions and to create a conducive environment for decent work through an inclusive and equitable social dialogue.

With the adoption of this resolution, our Office has been asked to develop a strategy and action plan which our Governing Body will discuss later this year. Furthermore, our Office has received a clear mandate to promote greater coherence across the multilateral system, including through the United Nations Task Force on the SSE, and to promote decent work and the SSE.

In conclusion, our constituents have set a milestone that will hopefully pave the way for broader international recognition of the SSE. To paraphrase our workers' vice-chairperson again, we hope it will "build a bridge" that extends into the UN system and beyond.

Your support for a broader UN resolution, with decent work in the SSE at its heart, would represent a major step forward, and you can count on the ILO for support.